

**Important information
about your drinking
water quality is inside
this report !**

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College Station Utilities

Reliable, Affordable, Community Owned

2003 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

At College Station Utilities, our goal is to provide our customers with safe, reliable drinking water. We are committed to providing you with accurate information and superior customer service.


The information in this sixth annual Water Quality Report provides a “snapshot” of the quality of College Station’s drinking water in 2003. It describes the source of your water, what substances were detected in your drinking water, and how College Station’s water compares to Federal and State drinking water quality standards.

College Station’s water is tested for over 100 different regulated contaminants, yet only eight (8) of these were detected in the most recent tests, all well below Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contaminant Levels. Substances that were tested for, but not detected, are not included in this report.

WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT YOUR TAP WATER CONTINUED TO MEET ALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) AND TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) DRINKING WATER HEALTH STANDARDS IN 2003.

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a Leading Utility Providing High Quality, Customer-Owned Services to College Station

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Save Water and Money Today!

Water is a precious resource-don’t waste it! By saving water now, we can all help to delay the construction of costly new water production and wastewater treatment facilities. **For more information or assistance, contact College Station Utilities Water/Wastewater Division at 979-764-3660.**



Landscape/Outdoor

- ⇒ Limit outdoor watering to once every 5 days, before 9:00 am or after 8:00 pm to reduce evaporation water losses .
- ⇒ Position sprinklers so they water only lawn and garden areas, not the street, driveway, or sidewalk.
- ⇒ Check irrigation systems for leaks, and consider installing a rain sensor to shut off the system during rain events.
- ⇒ Go to <http://texaset.tamu.edu> to learn exactly how much water your lawn needs, including rainfall. Or, wait to water until you walk on the lawn and leave footprints. This is a sign that grass needs water.
- ⇒ Use a cut-off nozzle and turn off the water when washing your car at home. You could save up to 100 gallons of water!

Bathroom/Kitchen/Laundry

- ⇒ Install a water-saving showerhead and save up to 7,000 gallons of water a year for a family of four.
- ⇒ Add food coloring to the toilet tank to check for leaks. Color will appear in the toilet bowl if the toilet is leaking. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. A leaky toilet can waste up to 52,800 gallons of water a year!
- ⇒ Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of fruit and vegetable food waste, instead of using a garbage disposal.
- ⇒ Always run full loads in the clothes washer and dishwasher.

EN ESPAÑOL: Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua para tomar. Para asistencia en español, favor de llamar al telefono (979) 764-3433.

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COLLEGE STATION UTILITIES:
A SUPERIOR PUBLIC
WATER SYSTEM



WHERE DOES OUR WATER
COME FROM?

The City of College Station obtains its drinking water from deep wells located in the Simsboro Sand formation of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. College Station also maintains interconnections with the City of Bryan and Texas A&M University water systems, both of which also obtain their drinking water from the Simsboro Sand.

After the water is pumped from the ground, it is routed through cooling towers at the Sandy Point Pump Station where its temperature is lowered from about 118° Fahrenheit to below 90° F.

Cooled water leaves the Sandy Point Pump Station through thirteen miles of transmission line to the Dowling Road Pump Station. Here, we add chlorine to the water for disinfection, and fluoride for dental health.

College Station's water system has thirteen million gallons of storage capacity. Ground storage tanks store water for peak demand periods and elevated storage tanks maintain water pressure throughout the city as well as provide water storage for peak demand periods and fire fighting.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR
WATER SYSTEM

We encourage you to learn more about your drinking water. Please contact us at any of the offices below.

WEBSITE
<http://www.cstx.gov>

WATER / WASTEWATER DIVISION
Line breaks / sewer or water problems
979-764-3638

**Water Presentations, Plant Tours,
Water Conservation Tips:**
979-764-6223

UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICE
(Bill payment, account information,
and utility connects / disconnects)
979-764-3535

1-800-849-6623
310 Krenak Tap Road
PO Box 10230
College Station, TX 77842-0230
Hours: M - F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

UTILITY SERVICE CENTER
(Administrative offices)
979-764-3660
1601 Graham Road
P.O. Box 9960
College Station, TX 77842
Hours: M - F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

COLLEGE STATION CITY COUNCIL
2nd and 4th Thursday 7:00 pm
City Hall 1101 Texas Avenue
Meeting Agendas: (979) 764-3541
<http://www.cstx.gov>

DOES ALL WATER CONTAIN
CONTAMINANTS?

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of a contaminant in your drinking water does not necessarily pose a health risk. The EPA has established health-based standards that limit the maximum concentration of a contaminant in drinking water. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 800-426-4791.**

WHAT ABOUT BOTTLED WATER?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.



WHAT ABOUT
OTHER
CONTAMINANTS?

A full list of all contaminants tested for, including both non-detected and detected contaminants, is available online at: <http://www.cstx.gov>. Just type 'Water Quality' in the Search box at the top right of the Home Page.



Hose-bib Vacuum Breaker: This simple, inexpensive device can protect your home's water supply from cross-connections.



WHAT IS BACKFLOW?
SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

When water flows backward through the water supply system, it is called backsiphonage or backflow. For example, if the pressure in a water main drops while your hose connected to College Station's water system is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, the water (and whatever is in it) could be sucked into *your* drinking water pipes! To protect against backflow, follow these tips:

- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Always keep the end of the hose clear of contaminants.
- Never use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Many lawn chemicals are toxic and could be fatal if ingested!
- Install backflow prevention devices such as hose-bib vacuum breakers on all threaded faucets in your home.
- Install an approved backflow prevention device on your automatic irrigation system.
- Be sure to have the backflow prevention device on your lawn irrigation system tested after installation, once every 5 years, and whenever it is moved.
- Information on approved backflow devices, as well as a list of backflow device testers registered with College Station, is available by calling Environmental Services at 764-3660, or go to <http://www.cstx.gov> and type 'Backflow' in the Search box at the top right of the home page.

ABOUT TASTE AND ODOR

Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. Occasionally water may become discolored due to a water line break. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns.

If you experience discolored water, please report it to **Utility Dispatch (24 hours) at 764-3638** so that we may promptly correct the problem.

For more information on taste, odor or color of drinking water, please contact **College Station Utilities at (979) 764-3660.**

WHAT IS IN MY WATER?

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Water Is Life!



Special Notice for the Elderly, Infants, Cancer Patients, People with HIV/AIDS or other Immune System Problems

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly, or immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders can be particularly at risk from infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines are available from the CDC and EPA.

risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* are available from the:

Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(1-800-426-4791)

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>

WATER UTILITY PROFILE (2003)	
Year Established	1980
Service Area	47.3 square miles
Water Source	Groundwater: Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer
Total Water Demand	3.451 Billion Gallons
Peak Day: Aug. 8, 2003	18.812 Million Gallons (MG)
Average Daily Demand	9.457 MGD
Average Daily Demand per Person	122 gallons per capita per day (gpcd)
Total Wastewater Treated	2.437 Billion Gallons
Ground Storage	Dowling Road Pump Station (8 MG)
Elevated Storage	Park Place (3 MG) Greens Prairie (2 MG)
Number of Fire Hydrants	1,981
Number of Water Valves	4,744
Miles of Water Line	311
Miles of Wastewater Line	260
Total Miles of Line per Field Operator	17.3

ASSESSING COLLEGE STATION'S SOURCE WATER

In 2003 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality completed Source Water Susceptibility Assessments for public water systems in Texas, including College Station's water system. Source Water Susceptibility Assessments are reports of a public water system's susceptibility to a variety of drinking water contaminants. These assessments are required under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

A copy of College Station's Source Water Susceptibility Assessment is available for viewing at the Utility Service Center at 1601 Graham Road.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Water-Wastewater Division contacted nearly **7,000** customers in 2003 through facility tours and presentations on water quality, water conservation, and wastewater treatment. Schedule your tour or presentation today by calling 764-6223 or email: jnations@cstx.gov.



DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT COMMENT FORM



Send us your comments today!

BY MAIL:

College Station Utilities Water/Wastewater Division

P.O. Box 9960; College Station, TX 77842, OR:

With your utility bill: P.O. Box 10230; College Station, TX 77842-0230



ONLINE:

Complete the survey online: Go to <http://www.cstx.gov> and click on 'Surveys' in the 'Online Services' menu.



BY PHONE:

CALL us with your comments: 979-764-6223

2003 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT COMMENT FORM

We want to hear from you! Please let us know what you think about the 2003 Drinking Water Quality Report by cutting out the comment form and mailing your comments to College Station Utilities. You can also send in the form with your utility bill, or complete the survey online at: <http://www.cstx.gov>.

Alternate Water Source Information

The City of College Station has interconnects with the City of Bryan and Texas A&M University (TAMU), to provide or obtain water on an emergency basis. College Station, Bryan and TAMU get their water from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. The table below shows the dates when we obtained water from TAMU in 2003 and the amount. College Station also provided water to Texas A&M and City of Bryan in 2003 to help them with their water construction projects. To learn more about TAMU drinking water quality please call (979) 845-4541.

Date	Supplier	Reason	Duration	Amount (Million Gallons)
12-03	TAMU	Transmission line work	15 days	8.411

FIVE CONVENIENT WAYS TO PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL!

1. In Person: 310 Krenek Tap Road
2. Online: <http://epay.ci.college-station.tx.us>
3. By Phone: 979-764-EPAY
4. Automatic Bank Draft
5. By Mail: College Station Utilities
P.O. Box 10230
College Station, TX 77842



OUTSTANDING COMPLIANCE WITH COLIFORM RULE

College Station Utilities monitors the safety of our drinking water by collecting a minimum of 81 drinking water samples each month. The Brazos County Health Department analyzes the samples for Coliform bacteria.

In 2003, just one out of 972 routine samples tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria. All positive sites were immediately re-sampled and showed no Coliform bacteria. *College Station did not violate the standard for Coliform bacteria.*

In fact, College Station Utilities has received two consecutive **Certificates for Outstanding Performance** from the TCEQ for outstanding compliance in monthly monitoring related to the Total Coliform Rule. We earned this recognition by having no violations of the Total Coliform Rule for the five year period from 1992 to 1996, and from 1997 to 2001.

Coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because they are easily detected and found in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals. Their absence from water is a good indication that the water is bacteriologically safe for human consumption.



College Station Utilities Environmental Technicians collect 81 water quality samples each month from sample stations like this one.

WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Regulated in the Distribution System		College Station Water Results		USEPA Regulations		
Inorganic Contaminants						
Year	Substance	Average	Range	MCL	MCL Goal	Possible Sources of Substances
2002	Barium	0.086 ppm	0.086 ppm - 0.086 ppm	2.0 ppm	2.0 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
2002	Copper	0.002 ppm	0.002 ppm - 0.002 ppm	1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Leaching of wood preservatives; Erosion of natural deposits
2003	Fluoride	0.65 ppm	0.0 ppm - 1.3 ppm	4 ppm	2 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth
2002	Nitrate	0.1 ppm	0.1ppm - 0.1 ppm	10 ppm	10 ppm	Runoff from fertilizer deposits; Leaching from septic tanks; sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Microbiological Contaminants						
2003	Total Coliform Bacteria*	0.1%	0% - 1.2%	Presence in over 5% of monthly samples	0%	Naturally present in the environment
Disinfection and Disinfection By-products						
2003	Chlorine	1.83 ppm	0.75 ppm - 2.08 ppm	4 ppm	N/A	Added to drinking water for disinfection
2003	Total Trihalomethanes	21.5 ppb	21.5 ppb-21.5 ppb	80 ppb	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated at the Customer's Tap						
Lead and Copper		90th Percentile	Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level		Action Level	Possible Sources of Substances
2001	Lead	1.7 ppb	1		15 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
2001	Copper	0.134 ppm	0		1.3 ppm	

About the Water Quality Test Results

These tables show all contaminants detected in College Station’s drinking water from Aug. 1, 2001 through Dec. 31, 2003. The State of Texas requires the City of College Station to monitor for lead and copper once every three years. The last monitoring was in August 2001, and the next monitoring will be Summer 2004. Although College Station’s water is tested for over 100 different contaminants to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), only eight (8) regulated contaminants were detected, all well below SDWA limits. Substances that were tested for, but not detected, are not included in this report.

Other Substances		
The table below lists amounts of other substances for which College Station's water is tested. The Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCL) are not enforced, but rather are intended as guidelines. These items primarily affect aesthetic qualities relating to drinking water. All substances listed in the following table were tested for in 2002, except turbidity.		
Substance	Detected Levels (ppm)	SMCL
Alkalinity (Bicarbonate)	366	No Recommendation
Alkalinity (Carbonate)	11	No Recommendation
Alkalinity (Phenolphthalein)	5	No Recommendation
Alkalinity (Total)	377	No Recommendation
Calcium	2.96	No Recommendation
Chloride	56.8	250 ppm
Dissolved Solids	541	1,000 ppm
Fluoride	0.36	2.0 ppm
Magnesium	0.65	No Recommendation
pH	8.46	6.5 - 8.5
Sodium	200	No Recommendation
Specific Conductance	891 µmhos/cm	No Recommendation
Sulfate	6.78	250 ppm
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	8.14	No Recommendation
Turbidity (2003 results)	0 - 0.44 NTU	Not Regulated

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RESULTS (No Maximum Contaminant Levels)		
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring helps the EPA determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the EPA needs to regulate those contaminants. This monitoring was done in 2002 to comply with CFR 141.40(e).		
Name of Compound	Year	Amount Detected
Bromodichloromethane	2002	1.3 - 4.3 ppb
Bromoform	2002	4.1 - 11.9 ppb
Chloroform	2002	1.0 ppb
Dibromochloromethane	2002	3.1 - 12.1 ppb

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS

Independent laboratories certified by the EPA and State of Texas perform all testing as required. All substances detected are below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and do not exceed the health-based standards for drinking water.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Micromhos per Centimeter (µmhos/cm): A measure of the electrical conductivity of a water sample. Pure water, in terms of mineral content, has a conductivity of 0.005 micromhos per centimeter at 25° Celsius.

Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU): A measure of turbidity.

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L). One part per billion is equivalent to one second in thirty-two (32) years, or one cent in \$10 million.

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L). One part per million is equivalent to one minute in two years, or one cent in \$10,000.

pH: The pH scale extends from 0, very acidic, to 14, very alkaline or basic, with 7 corresponding to exact neutral. Most natural waters fall within the range of 4 to 9.

picoCuries per Liter (pCi/L): Unit of measurement for radioactive substances.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): The level of a contaminant that represents reasonable goals for drinking water quality. SMCLs pertain to contaminants that primarily affect the aesthetic qualities relating to drinking water.

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water.



2003 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT COMMENT FORM

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DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT COMMENT FORM

This report answered my questions about water.	YES	NO	Comments:
This report contained useful information.	YES	NO	
I am pleased with the quality of College Station's water	YES	NO	
Length of time in College Station (years)	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 +
I am billed directly for my water use	YES	NO	